

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method at a server for facilitating a remote boot process at a client, wherein the client and the server reside on a network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the server, a dataset of load information associated with an execution load at a boot server;

in response to receiving the dataset of load information, ordering a list of multiple boot server addresses based on the received dataset of load information and based on previously received datasets of load information;

receiving, at the server, a first file transfer request initiated by a remote boot process at the client;

in response to receiving the first file transfer request, sending a file comprising the ordered list of multiple boot server addresses to the client.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to the step of receiving the first file transfer request:

receiving, at the server, a boot service discover message from the client; and

in response to receiving the boot service discover message, sending a boot service acknowledgment message to the client.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to the step of receiving the first file transfer request:

receiving, at the server, a second file transfer request from the client; and

in response to receiving the second file transfer request, sending an initial network bootstrap program to the client, wherein the initial network bootstrap program, when executed at the client, generates the first file transfer request.

4. (Original) A method at a server for facilitating a remote boot process at a client, wherein the client and the server reside on a network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the server, a boot file transfer request initiated by a remote boot process at the client;

in response to receiving the boot file transfer request, sending a file to the client;

monitoring an execution load at the server;

generating a dataset containing load information associated with the execution load at the server; and

sending the generated dataset to another server.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for facilitating a remote boot process at a client on a network, the apparatus comprising a data processor coupled to a memory having stored therein instructions that are operable, when executed by the data processor, to perform steps of:

~~first receiving means for~~ receiving a dataset of load information associated with an execution load of a boot server;

~~ordering means for~~ ordering, in response to receiving the dataset of load information, a list of multiple boot server addresses based on the received dataset of load information and based on previously received datasets of load information;

~~second receiving means for~~ receiving a first file transfer request initiated by a remote boot process at the client; and

~~first sending means for~~ sending, in response to receiving the first file transfer request, a file comprising the ordered list of multiple boot server addresses to the client.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising instructions that are operable to perform steps of:

~~third receiving means for~~ receiving a boot service discover message from the client; and

~~second sending means for~~ sending a boot service acknowledgment message to the client in response to receiving the boot service discover message.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising instructions that are operable to perform steps of:

~~fourth receiving means for~~ receiving a second file transfer request from the client; and
~~third sending means for~~ sending an initial network bootstrap program to the client in response to receiving the second file transfer request, wherein the initial network bootstrap program, when executed at the client, generates the first file transfer request.

8. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for facilitating a remote boot process on a network, the data processing system comprising a first server comprising a first data processor coupled to a first memory, and a second server comprising a second data processor coupled to a second memory, wherein the first memory has stored therein first instructions that are operable, when executed by the first data processor, to perform steps of:

~~first receiving means for~~ receiving, at ~~[[a]]~~ the first server, a dataset of load information associated with an execution load of ~~[[a]]~~ the second server;

~~ordering means for~~ ordering at the first server, in response to receiving the dataset of load information, a list of multiple boot server addresses based on the received dataset of load information and based on previously received datasets of load information;

~~second receiving means for~~ receiving at the first server a first file transfer request initiated by a remote boot process at a client; and

~~first sending means for~~ sending, in response to receiving the first file transfer request, a file comprising the ordered list of multiple boot server addresses to the client from the first server~~[[.]]~~; and wherein the second memory has stored therein second instructions that are operable, when executed by the second data processor, to perform steps of:

~~third receiving means for~~ receiving at the second server a boot file transfer request from the client;

~~second sending means for~~ sending a file to the client in response to receiving the boot file transfer request;

~~monitoring means for~~ monitoring an execution load at the second server;

~~generating means for~~ generating a dataset containing load information associated with the execution load at the second server; and

~~third sending means for~~ sending the generated dataset to the first server.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer readable storage medium for use in a server for facilitating a remote boot process at a client, wherein the client and the server reside on a network, the computer program product comprising:
- instructions to receive ~~for receiving~~, at the server, a dataset of load information associated with an execution load at a boot server;
 - instructions to order ~~for ordering~~, in response to receiving the dataset of load information, a list of multiple boot server addresses based on the received dataset of load information and based on previously received datasets of load information;
 - instructions to receive ~~for receiving~~, at the server, a first file transfer request initiated by a remote boot process at the client;
 - instructions to send ~~for sending~~, in response to receiving the first file transfer request, a file comprising the ordered list of multiple boot server addresses to the client.
10. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 9 further comprising:
- instructions to receive ~~for receiving~~, at the server, a boot service discover message from the client; and
 - instructions to send ~~for sending~~, in response to receiving the boot service discover message, a boot service acknowledgment message to the client.
11. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 10 further comprising:
- instructions to receive ~~for receiving~~, at the server, a second file transfer request from the client; and
 - instructions to send ~~for sending~~, in response to receiving the second file transfer request, an initial network bootstrap program to the client, wherein the initial network bootstrap program, when executed at the client, generates the first file transfer request.
12. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the previously received datasets of load information are received from a plurality of different boot servers.
13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the server is a central server, and further comprising:

executing a plurality of instances of the central server, wherein each instance of the plurality of instances receives the datasets of load information from each of the plurality of different boot servers.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein a central server daemon process runs on each of the plurality of instances of the central server and receives the datasets of load information from each of the different boot servers.

15. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the boot service acknowledgment message indicates an internet protocol (IP) address of the server and a file name of an initial boot program.

16. (New) The data processing system of claim 8, further comprising instructions that are operable to perform steps of:

receiving, at the first server, a boot service discover message from the client; and
in response to receiving the boot service discover message, the first server sending a boot service acknowledgment message to the client.

17. (New) The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the boot service acknowledgment message indicates an internet protocol (IP) address of the first server and a file name of an initial boot program.

18. (New) The data processing system of claim 8, further comprising instructions that are operable to perform steps of:

receiving, at the server, a second file transfer request from the client; and
in response to receiving the second file transfer request, sending an initial network bootstrap program to the client, wherein the initial network bootstrap program, when executed at the client, generates the first file transfer request.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the previously received datasets of load information are received from a plurality of different boot servers, wherein the server is a central server, and further comprising instructions that are operable to perform a step of:

executing a plurality of instances of the central server, wherein each instance of the plurality of instances receives the datasets of load information from each of the plurality of different boot servers.

20. (New) The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the previously received datasets of load information are received from a plurality of different boot servers, wherein the server is a central server, and further comprising:

instructions to execute a plurality of instances of the central server, wherein each instance of the plurality of instances receives the datasets of load information from each of the plurality of different boot servers.